

## OPINION 130

*Lytoceras* SUSS, 1865, PLACED IN THE OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES

**SUMMARY.**—Under Suspension of the Rules *Lytoceras* Suss, 1865 (genotype, *Ammonites fimbriatus* Sowerby) is hereby placed in the Official List of Generic Names.

STATEMENT OF CASE.—The following cases have been submitted by Dr. L. F. Spath:

*Ophiceras* was proposed by E. Suss in June, 1865, (Anzeiger K. Akad. Wiss. Wien, p. 112) for the "fimbriati" (i. e., group of *Ammonites fimbriatus* Sowerby) but was afterwards thought to clash with *Ophioceras* Barrande (May 1865, in explanation to plates, = *Ophidioceras* Barr., in text, 1867) and was replaced later in 1865 by *Lytoceras* Suss (Sitz. B. Akad. Wiss. Wien, vol. 52, p. 78). This last has ever since been in universal use.

A second *Ophiceras* was proposed in 1880 (Griesbach, Rec. Geol. Surv. India, vol. 13, p. 109) for a Triassic group of ammonites, and (Suss' original *Ophiceras* being forgotten) it has now also become universally accepted.

The resuscitation of the original *Ophiceras* according to the Rules of Nomenclature would cause great paleontological confusion. *Lytoceras* and the family Lytoceratidae are now given in every textbook, *Lytoceras* being one of the two fundamental ammonite genera, persisting from the base of the Lias to the Upper Cretaceous. *Ophiceras*, also recorded in most textbooks, is Lower Triassic in age, so that from stratigraphical considerations, also, it would be advisable to secure stabilization of the present use of these two genera by the International Commission as follows:

Genus *Lytoceras* Suss, 1865 (genotype: *Ammonites fimbriatus* Sowerby; Min. Conchol., vol. 2, pl. 164, 1817).

Genus *Ophiceras* Griesbach, 1880 (genotype: *O. tibeticum* Griesbach, 1880, p. 109, pl. 3, fig. 4).

DISCUSSION.—These cases were referred to Commissioner Bather for special study. He reported upon them as follows:

I have gone into this case carefully and consider it to be eminently one where adherence to the rules would produce nothing but confusion. I therefore recommend as the Opinion of the Commission: That, to prevent confusion, the law of priority be suspended as regards *Lytoceras* Suss, 1865 (genotype, *Ammonites fimbriatus* Sowerby) and *Ophiceras* Griesbach, 1880 (genotype, *O. tibeticum* Griesbach) and that these two names be added to the Official List of Generic Names.

The documents in question were then submitted to Dr. B. B. Woodward, and to the following Museums: United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.; Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesell-

schaft, Frankfurt a.M.; Zoological Museum, Berlin, Germany; Natural History Museum, Vienna; Musée nationale d'Histoire naturelle, Paris; Zoological Museum, Copenhagen; Field Museum, Chicago, U. S. A.; American Museum of Natural History, New York City, U. S. A.; and to the United States Geological Survey.

The experts consulted have reported as follows:

Paul Bartsch of the United States National Museum:

While I do not favor exceptions to the Law of Priority, this case appears to be one in which abiding by the rules would produce greater confusion than the suspending thereof. I therefore favor Doctor Bather's opinion.

W. C. Mendenhall, Geological Survey, Washington:

The proposition now before the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to suspend the Law of Priority in the case of two generic names of ammonites, *Lytoceras* and *Ophiceras*, has been considered by the paleontologists of the Geological Survey now in Washington who are concerned with zoological names—

C. Wythe Cooke, George H. Girty, W. C. Mansfield, J. B. Reeside, Jr., P. V. Roundy, T. W. Stanton, and L. W. Stephenson state:

That they concur in the recommendation of Dr. F. A. Bather that the two names *Lytoceras* Suess and *Ophiceras* Griesbach should be added to the list of "nomina conservanda" under suspension of the Law of Priority.

Edwin Kirk joins in this recommendation so far as *Lytoceras* is concerned but thinks that the retention of Griesbach's *Ophiceras* would be unfortunate because Suess' prior use of that name has been noted by Marshall in 1873 and by subsequent bibliographers.

R. Spärck of the Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen:

I absolutely recommend the proposition to suspend the Law of Priority in the case of the two above mentioned generic names. Dr. Ravn, Head of the Department of Paleontology, joins the recommendation so far as *Lytoceras* is concerned, but is of the opinion that the retention of Griesbach's *Ophiceras* would be unfortunate.

Rudolf Richter, Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt a.M.:

Suspension der Regeln soll eine sehr seltene Ausnahme bleiben, weil die häufigere Anwendung dieses Rechtes zu schlimmen Folgen für die Nomenklatur führen würde.

Im Falle von *Lytoceras* Suess und *Ophiceras* Griesbach ist aber *Suspension* das allein Richtige.

B. B. Woodward, London:

I am of opinion that *Lytoceras* should be placed with "nomina conservanda", but that *Ophiceras* Griesbach, 1880, should not be accepted, Suess' earlier name having passed into literature.

There is unanimity of opinion regarding *Lytoceras* among the experts consulted, and an overwhelming affirmative majority in regard to *Ophiceras*. In view of the foregoing data the Secretary recommends the adoption of the Summary given above as the Opinion of the Commission.

Opinion prepared by Bather and Stiles.

Vote on *Lytoceras*:

Opinion concurred in by thirteen (13) Commissioners: Apstein, Bather, Cabrera, Chapman, Horvath, Ishikawa, K. Jordan, Pellegrin, Richter, Silvestri, Stiles, Stone, Stephenson.

Opinion dissented from by no Commissioner.

Not voting, six (6) Commissioners: Bolivar, Fantham, Handlirsch, Peters, Stejneger, Warren.

Vote on *Ophiceras*:

Opinion concurred in by ten (10) Commissioners: Apstein, Bather, Chapman, Horvath, Ishikawa, K. Jordan, Pellegrin, Richter, Stiles, Stephenson.

Opinion dissented from by three (3) Commissioners: Cabrera, Silvestri, Stone.

Not voting, six (6) Commissioners: Bolivar, Fantham, Handlirsch, Peters, Stejneger, Warren.

Accordingly, *Lytoceras* is placed in the Official List of Generic Names and the case of *Ophiceras* is tabled until the next meeting of the Commission.